

# Bigger—Better—Faster

## A New Era for Conservation?



Donald Koch, Director

California Department of Fish and Game

- As State fish and game agencies we have legacy of managing natural resources in the face of uncertainty and many of the challenges we face today are similar to those faced by our predecessors.
- "Probably no other department of state government deals with a problem having so many and diverse angles as does the game and fish department. Our charge is the successful administration of a multitude of separate species of living mammals, birds, and fishes, each having its own peculiar habits and ecological requirements, and distributed over a tremendous area of country..." from New Mexico Conservationist, reprinted in California Fish and Game (1930, p336)

Report: One-third of all species could be extinct in 50 years due to global warming.

THE SCENERY  
ISN'T LIKE  
IT WAS IN THE  
SUV COMMERCIAL.



TUES

UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP  
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Off-Road Kill

ABOUT ELEVEN  
SPECIES PER GALLON

1-12-04

# State Level Actions

- Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32)
  - Reduce GHG emissions 25 percent by 2020.
- Executive Order S-03-05
  - Focus on achieving GHG emission reduction targets
- Executive Order S-13-08
  - Sea level rise and climate change adaptation planning
- Executive Order S-14-08
  - Policy direction for 33% resale renewable portfolio standard by 2020

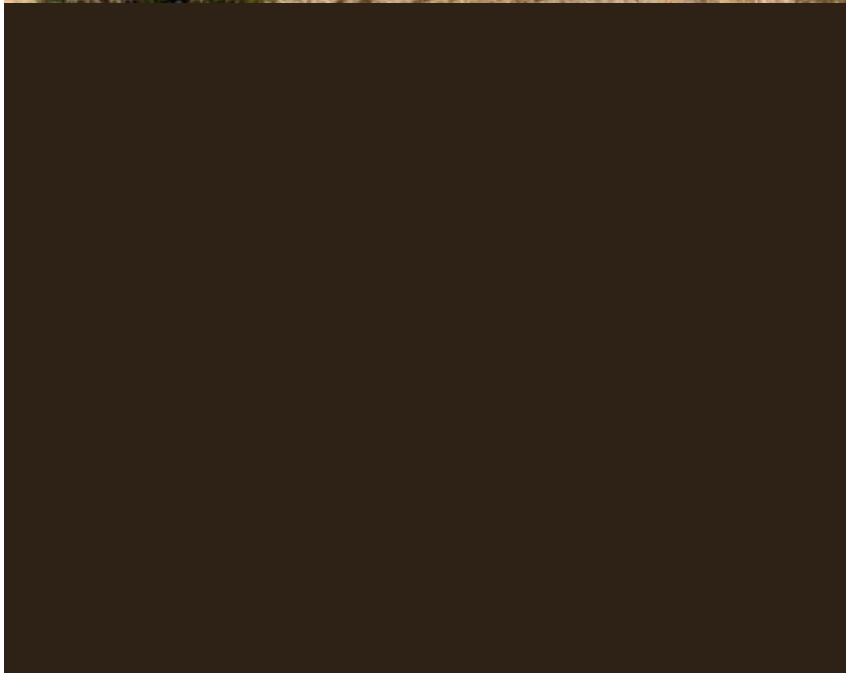
# CA DFG Renewable Energy & Climate Change Program

- Personnel additions
- Internal task force
- Mitigation and Adaptation
- Stakeholder involvement

Key: Commitment of DFG  
staff & working with partners





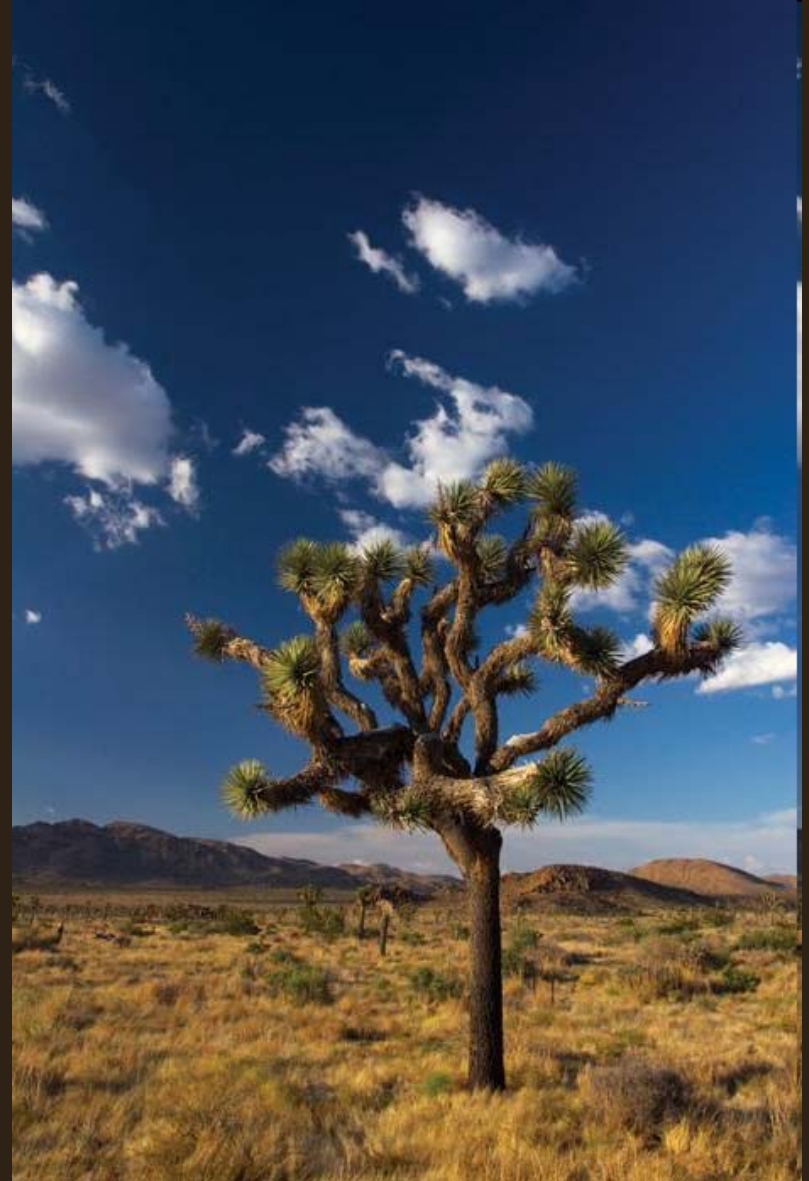


# DFG Climate Change Goals: Unity—Integration—Action

- Develop a climate change strategy within the Department's management and policy branches.
- Integrate a thought process into all of our natural resources activities that actively addresses climate change.

# Adaptation Strategy

- Landscape reserves
- Habitat management & restoration
- Population management
- Research & guidelines
- Regulatory requirements

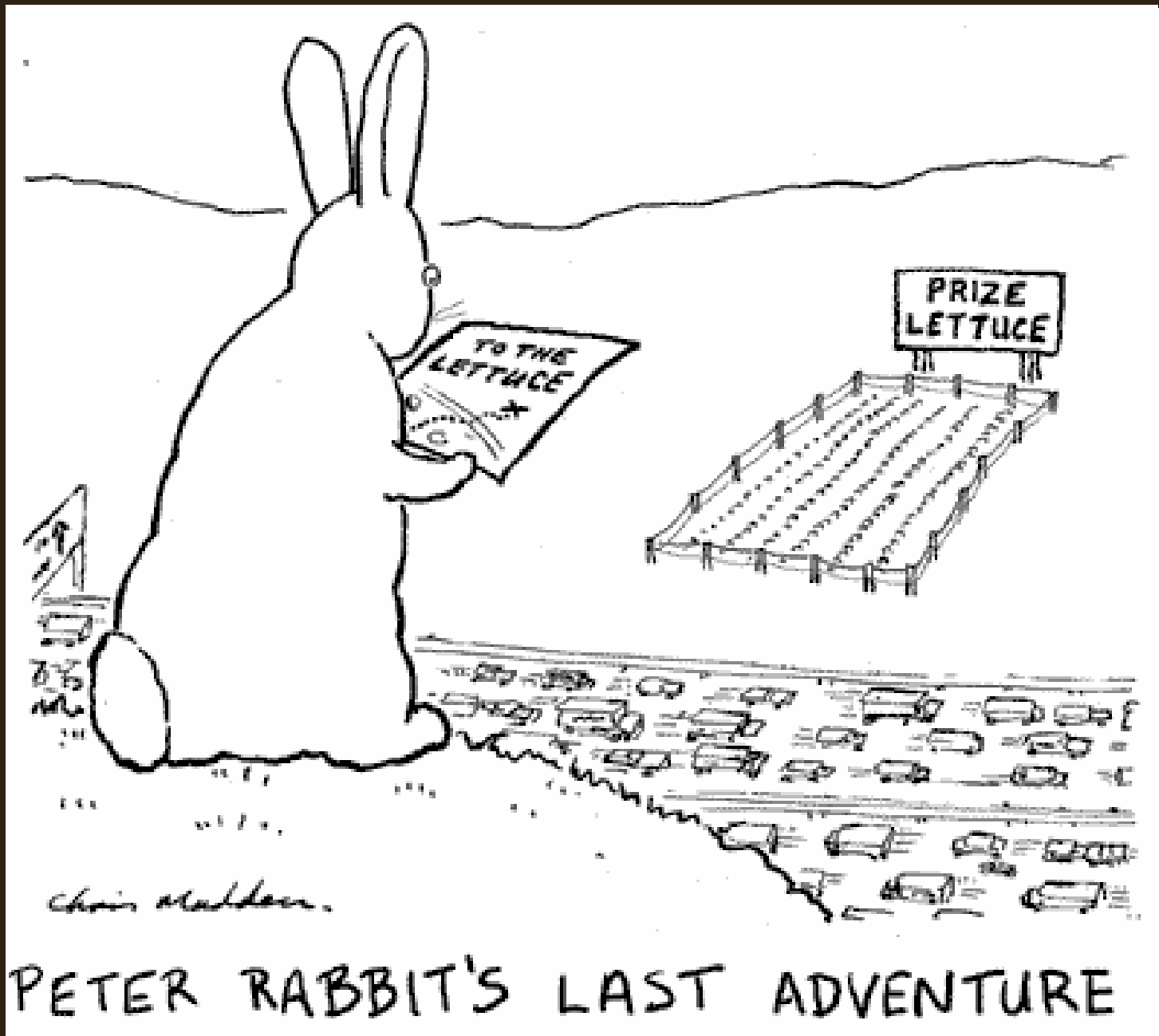




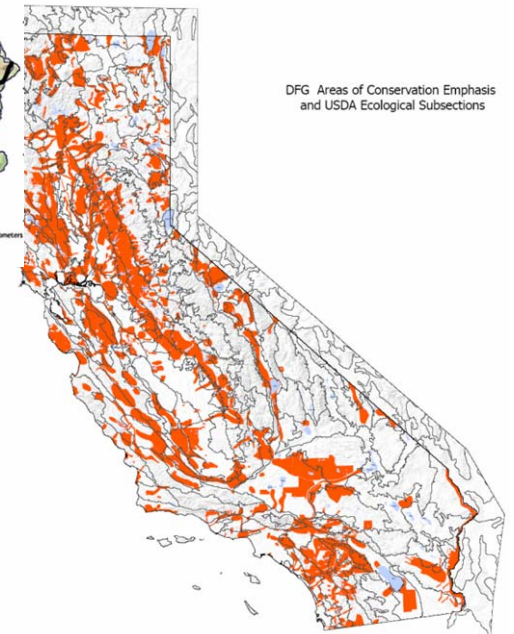
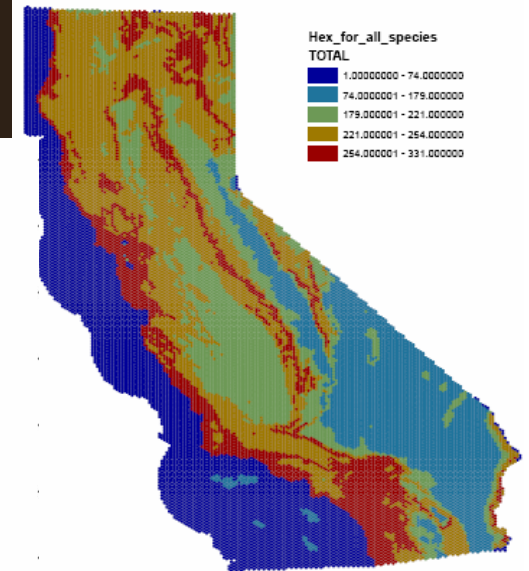
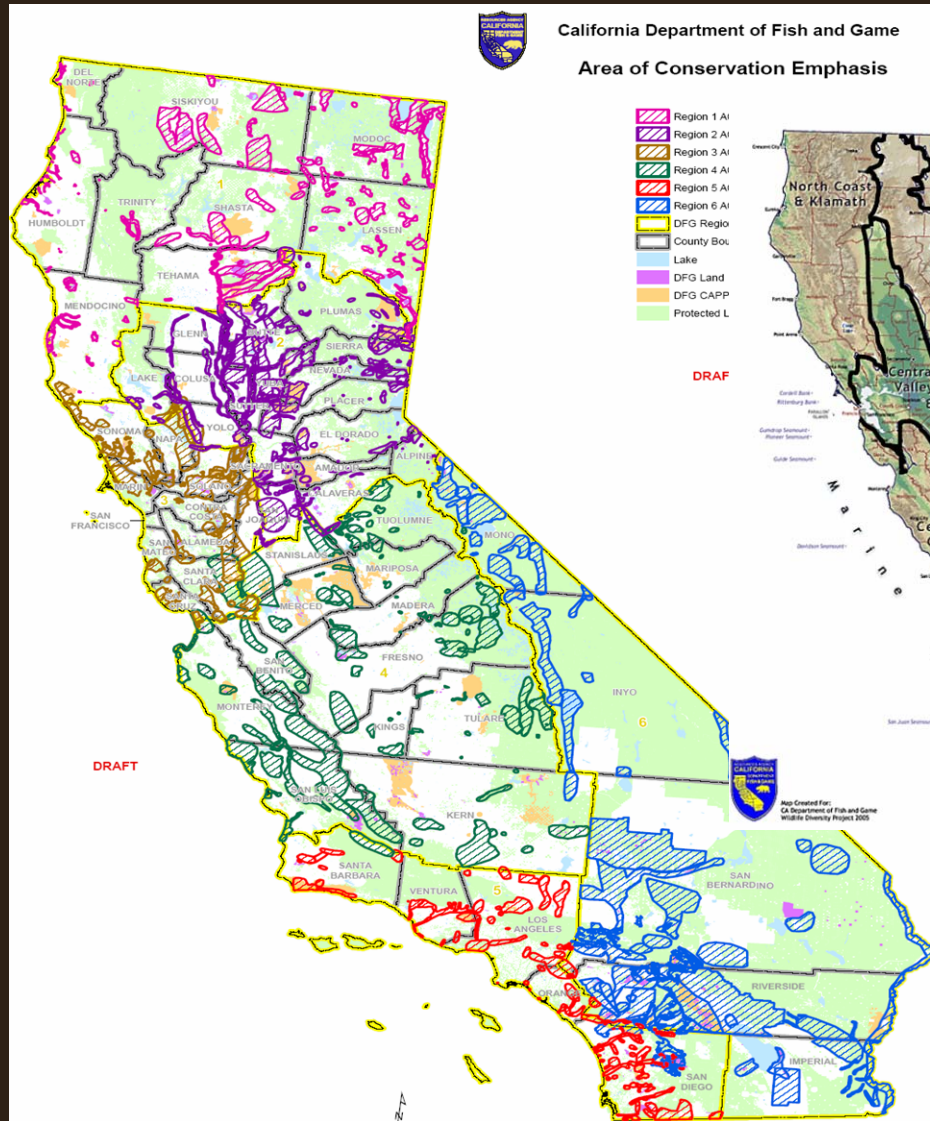
# The Tool box

- Program Development
- Partnerships
- Presence
- Personnel
- Public





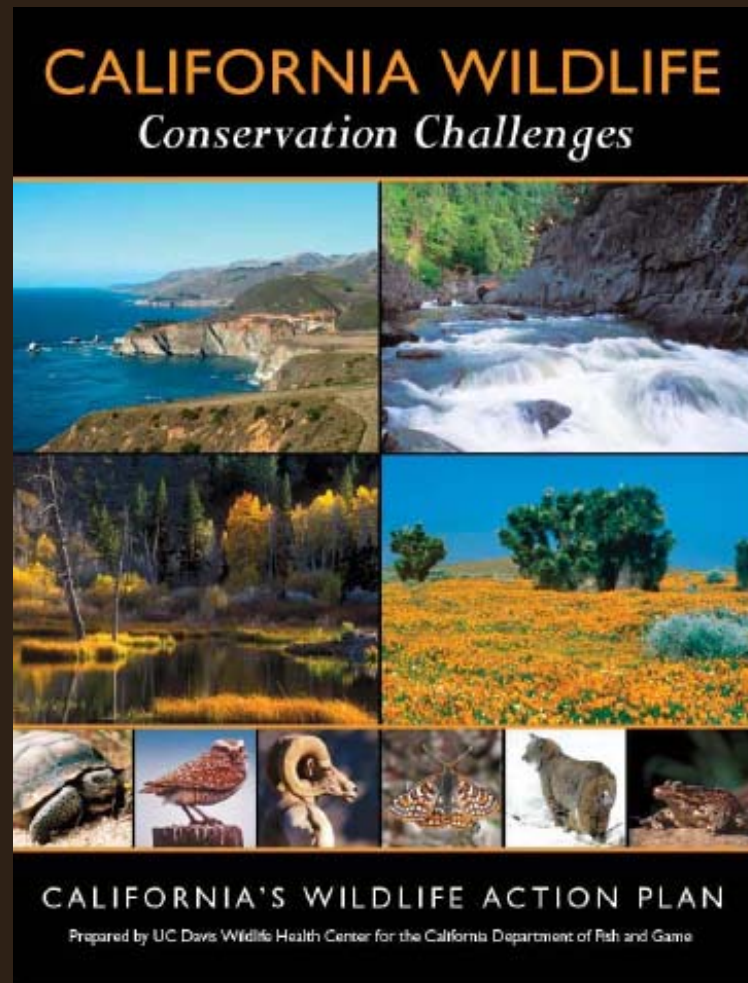
# Areas of Conservation Emphasis



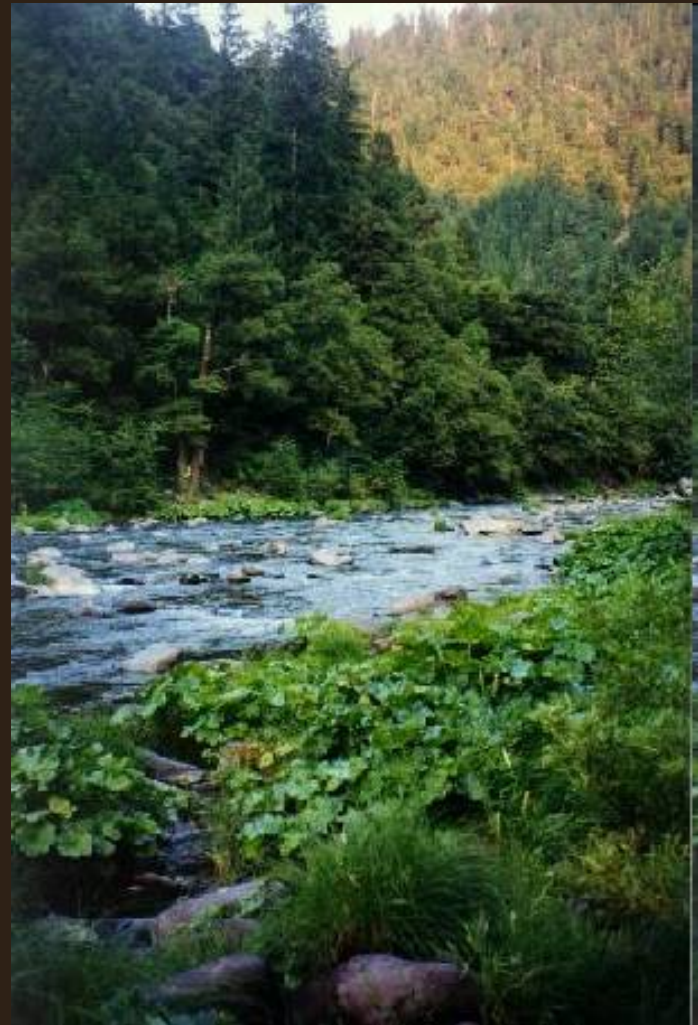


# California's Wildlife Action Plan

*"Keeping Common Species Common"*



# Natural Community Conservation Planning





# The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Identify areas for conservation and declining species management
- Goal is to coordinate and consider desert land uses and relevant stakeholder concerns during the planning process.

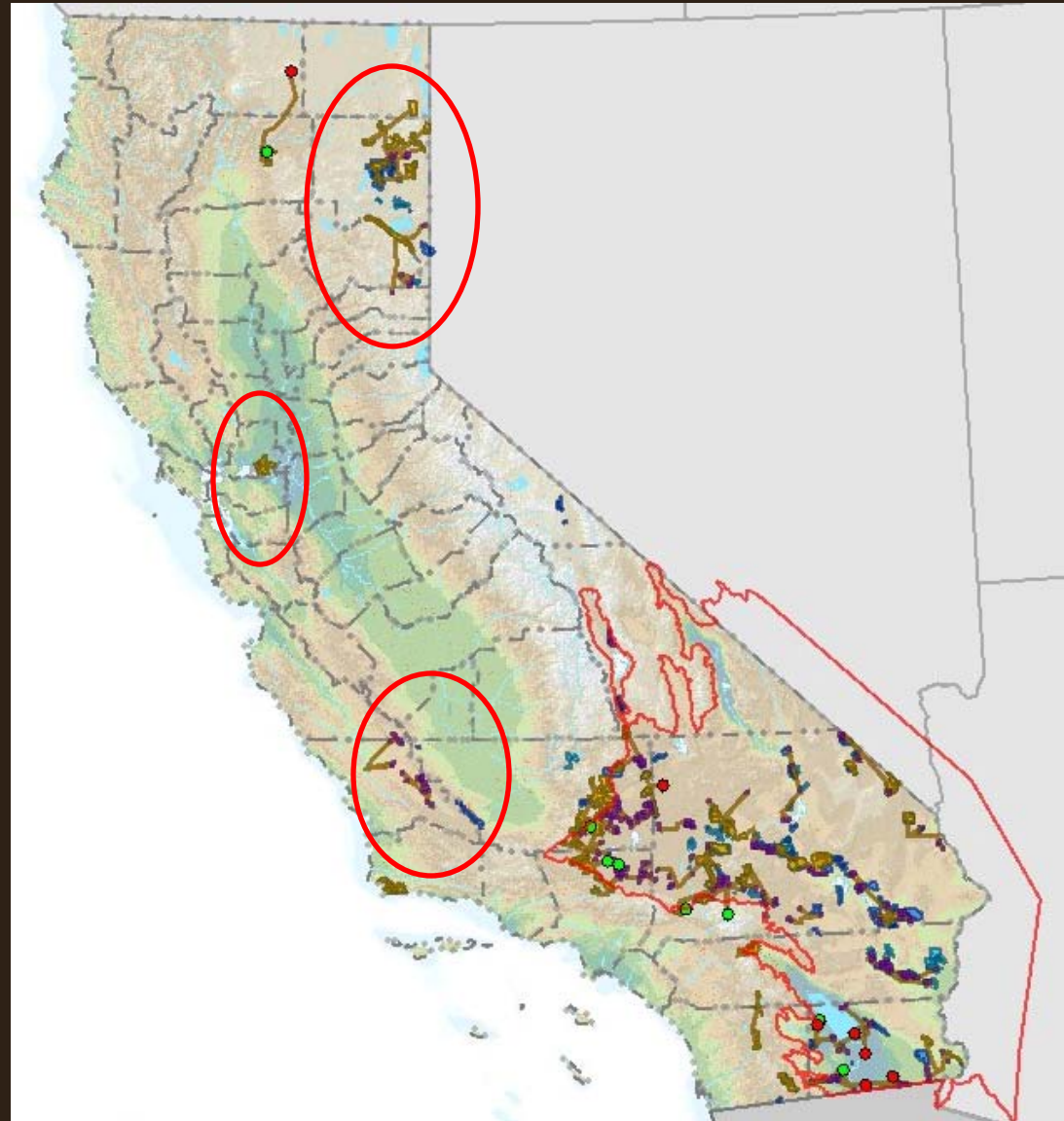


# Renewable Energy in California:

*Implementing the Governors Renewable Energy Executive Order*

EO Element 8:  
NCCP Priorities

- Current focus is on the desert with development of the DRECP
- Future development of NCCPs for RPS projects will focus on the Modoc Plateau and the Carrizo Plain
- Initial planning for an NCCP underway for the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area



# Renewable Energy in California:

*Implementing the Governors Renewable Energy Executive Order*

EO Elements 10-12:  
The DRECP

## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Includes the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecoregions
- Parts of six counties
- Focus is on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) projects





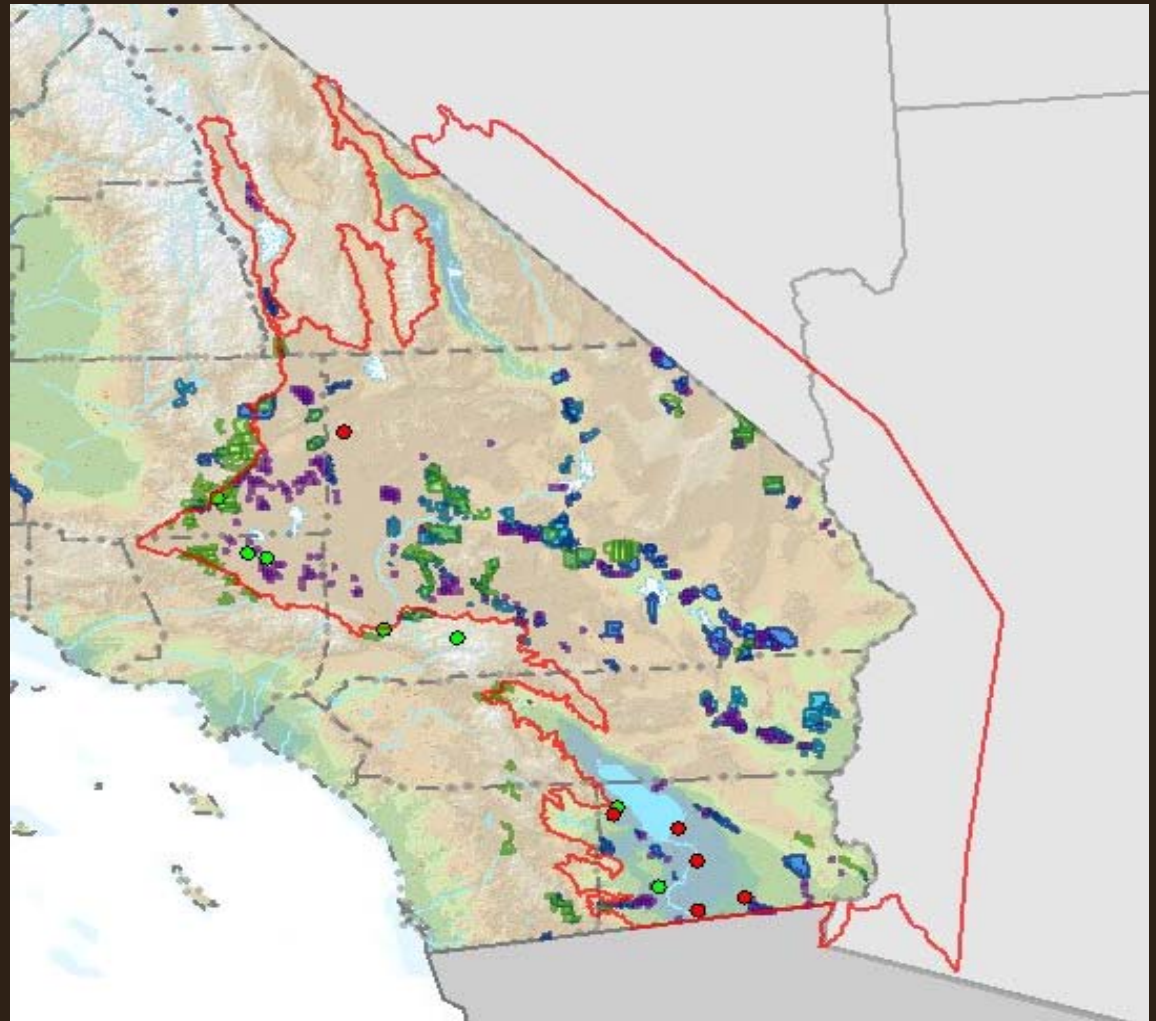
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EO Elements 10-12:  
The DRECP

## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Designed to incorporate existing and potential project areas
- Specific covered activities (RPS projects) drive permit coverage
- RETI results will modify and help direct covered activity area design



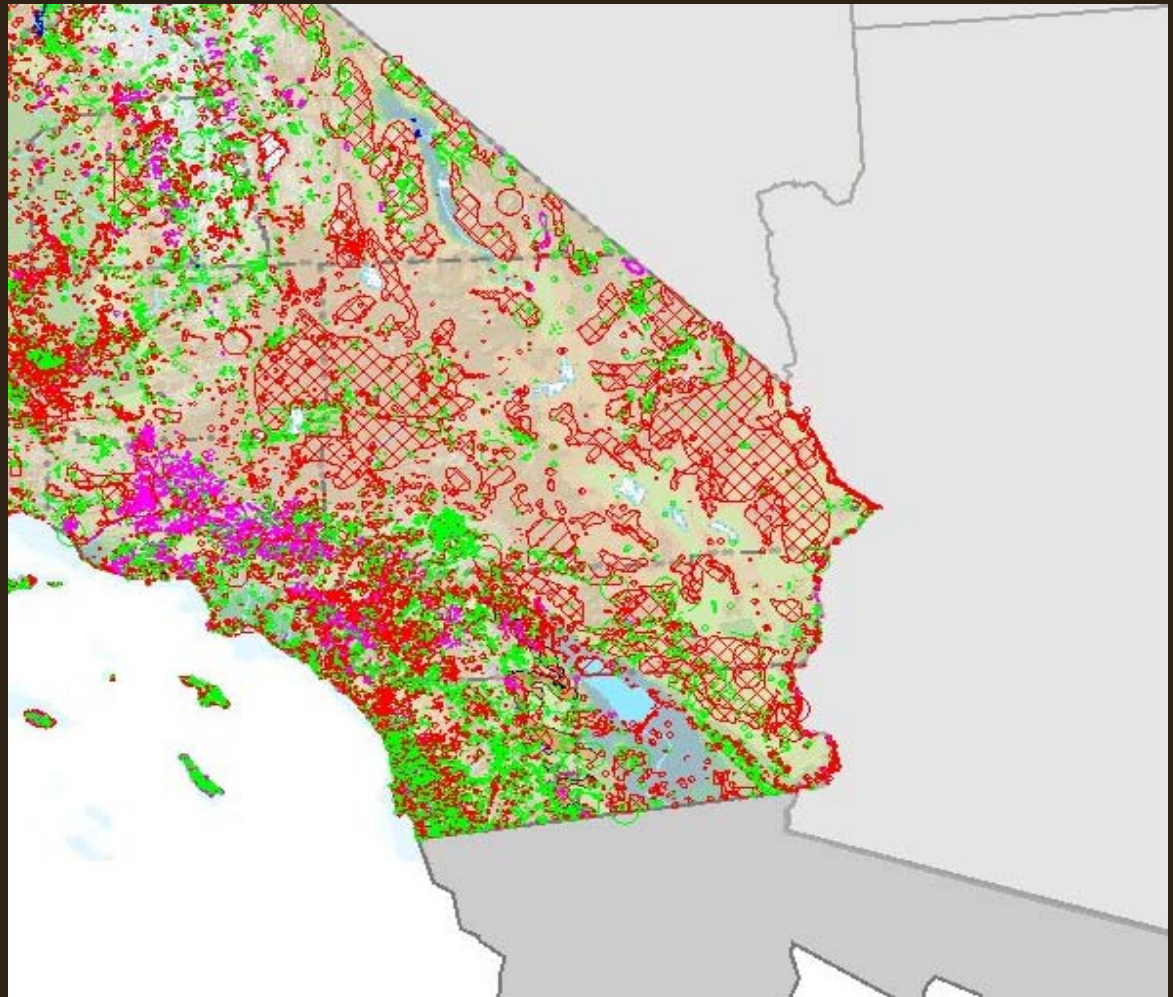
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EO Elements 10-12:  
The DRECP

## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Incorporates best existing biological data
- Conservation area designation will consider many factors
- Data quality, extent, and availability will be key!





# Where do we go from here?

- Coordination, leverage resources and ↑ partnerships
- Robust science & adaptive management
- Educate ourselves
- Invest in our future



